

IN THE SPECIFICATION AMEND

Please delete the paragraph on Page 1, Line 15, and insert instead:

- - c) control device for the pressure of the fluid filling. - -

Please delete the paragraph on Page 3, Line 16, and insert instead:

- - In a preferred refinement of the invention, at least that region of the surfaces forming the boundary of the chamber that is irradiated by illumination light is at least partially formed by an elastically deformable medium, the edge contour of the elastically deformable region being non-rotational-symmetric. An elastically deformable medium having a non-rotational-symmetric edge contour bulges in selected, mutually perpendicular planes in such a way that different curvatures are present at those points. Depending on the pressure of the fluid filling, the focal length ratio of such an astigmatic optical element changes in mutually perpendicular meridional planes. In total, this results in an easy-to-implement compensation element for a variable astigmatism. - -

Please delete the paragraph on Page 5, Line 13, and insert instead:

- - At the same time, the optical element is preferably formed from a combination of at least two optical components that each comprise at least one chamber that is sealed from atmospheric pressure and is enclosed by boundary surfaces, that has a fluid filling and that is irradiated by illumination light, the optical components having, at least in the region of one surface of the surfaces forming the boundary of the respective chambers in each case at least one optical surface having different curvature in mutually perpendicular planes; and an independent control of the pressure of the fluid filling in the chambers assigned to the optical components is ensured by